

tired to the Susquehanna. The Eastern shore tribes occasionally visited Annapolis, and as late as 1840, there were some few residents of Annapolis who remembered the visits of King Abraham and his Queen Sarah.

CHAPTER XXXVI.

THE THIRD STATE HOUSE IN ANNAPOLIS.

1772—1887.



THE THIRD STATE HOUSE. Corner Stone laid March 28, 1772.

In 1769, the Legislature appropriated £7,500 sterling to build the present State House. The building committee was Daniel Dulany, Thomas Johnson, John Hall, William Paca, Charles Carroll, Barrister, Lancelot Jacques, and Charles Wallace. The majority were empowered to contract with workmen, and to purchase materials, and were authorized to draw on the dual treasurers of the State for whatever further sums might be required to complete the building.

The foundation stone of the State House was laid on the 28th of March, 1772, by Governor Eden.

In 1773, a copper roof was put on the State House, and in 1775, this roof was blown off. The Market House of the city was demolished by the same equinoctial gale, during which the tide rose three feet perpendicularly above the common level.

The dome was not added to the State House until after the revolution.

The dimensions of the State House are:

	Feet.
From the platform to the cornice, about.....	36
“ “ cornice to top of arc, of roof.....	23
“ “ top of the roof to the cornice of the facade of the dome.....	30
“ “ cornice to the band above the elliptical windows..	24
This terminates the view internally.....	113
From the band to the balcony.....	22
Height of the turret.....	17
From the cornice of the turret to the floor of the campanelle, or lantern.....	6
Height of the campanelle, or lantern.....	14
Height of the pedestal and acorn.....	10
Height of the spire.....	18—87
Entire height,	200
Diameter of the dome, at its base.....	40
do. balcony.....	30
do. turret.....	17
do. campanelle, or lantern.....	10
do. acorn.....	3 8 in.
Length of the front of the building.....	120
Depth, (exclusive of the octagon,).....	82

The architect was Joseph Clarke. Thomas Dance who executed the stucco and fresco work, fell from the scaffold just as he had finished the centre piece, and was killed.

The State House is situated upon a marked elevation in the centre of Annapolis. The eminence rises in gradual terraces to the edifice, which, though simple in architecture, has a lofty and majestic appearance, and has in all times "elicited alike the admiration of the citizen, the sojourner, and the stranger for the beauty of its structure."

The main building is of brick, the dome of wood. From the dome of the State House, 125 feet from the top of the Hill, a most delightful view is obtained. The majestic Chesapeake and a hundred tributaries, their bosoms covered with endless varieties of busy water craft; the ancient city; its environs; the Naval Academy—its ships of war;—the contiguous country with its sloping hills and variegated plains, for an extent of thirty miles, gratify the eye of the delighted spectator.

The main entrance of the State House is through a modest porch, facing southeast. It opens into a spacious hall, beautifully ornamented with stucco work which was made from plaster brought from St. Mary's county.

On the right hand is the Senate Chamber, 30 by 40 feet. Its ceiling and walls are handsomely ornamented, and rich carpets cover its floors. It has accommodations for twenty-six Senators, and a contracted lobby gives room for a small number of auditors. Portraits at full length of Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, Samuel Chase, William Paca, and Thomas Stone, signers of the Declaration of Independence from Maryland, adorn the walls.

In 1876, this chamber was improved by order of the Board of Public Works. The old gallery that linked the room with the great past was torn down and carried to the cellar, and the State acquiesced in a profanation it had never ordered.

In the room adjoining the Senate is a portrait of the elder Pitt, in which Lord Chatham is represented at full length in the attitude and costume of a Roman orator—decorated with emblems of his lofty principles. This portrait was painted by Charles Wilson Peale whilst in England and presented by him, in 1794, to the State.

The Senate Chamber's highest title to renown is that in it Washington resigned his Military Commission after the Revolution, and became again a civilian. In this room also was ratified by Congress in 1784, the treaty of peace with Great Britain, which treaty recognized American Independence.

In September, 1786, at the suggestion of General Washington, it is thought, as the scheme was concerted at Mt. Vernon, a convention assembled at Annapolis to propose measures to maintain harmonious commercial relations between the States. This body met in the Senate Chamber. Five States were represented. The Commissioners who arrived were from

NEW YORK—Alexander Hamilton and Egbert Benson.

NEW JERSEY—Abraham Clark, William C. Houston, and James Schureman.

PENNSYLVANIA—Tench Coxe.

DELAWARE—George Ready, John Dickinson, Richard Bassett.

VIRGINIA—Edmund Randolph, James Madison, Jr., and St. George Tucker.

Hamilton made the report that was adopted by the convention. It proposed to the several States the convocation of a convention to take into consideration the situation of the United States.

The Annapolis convention was the parent of the great convention of 1787, that framed the federal constitution.

On the left of the rotunda is the Hall of the House of Delegates. It has seating capacity for 91 members. Three small lobbies give accommodations for visitors. On the Northeastern wall hangs a painting, representing Washington, attended by General LaFayette and Col. Tilghman his Aides-de-camp, and the Continental Army passing in review. In Washington's hands are the articles of capitulation at Yorktown. This picture was painted by Charles Wilson Peale in pursuance of a resolution of the Legislature, and is one of the best portraits extant of the immortal Virginian.

Opposite the entrance of the State House is the Library, containing, duplicates included, 80,000 volumes. These are chiefly works on law and public documents, but a handsome proportion of them is a valuable collection of works on art, science, history, and fiction. The library was established in 1834, and the building was enlarged in 1859. Before the inauguration of the State Library, the room, occupied at its establishment, had been used by the General Court of Maryland. In 1804, that court was abolished.

On the second floor to the left of the staircase is the suite of rooms occupied by the Court of Appeals. On the right of the stairway the room of the Adjutant General (formerly the State Armory,) the private office of the Governor, and the Executive Chamber are located.

In the Executive Chamber the portrait of George Calvert, the first Lord Baltimore and England's Secretary of State under James and Charles, is seen. It is a copy from the painting by Mytens, now in the gallery of the Earl of Varulam at Glastenbury, England—and was presented to the State by John W. Garrett, of Baltimore, as a result

of the researches and efforts of Mr. F. B. Mayer, of Annapolis, to inaugurate a gallery of the Governors of Maryland. A full length portrait of Charles, third Lord Baltimore, was exchanged by the city of Annapolis for the six portraits of Governors Paca, Smallwood, Stone, Sprigg, Johnson, and Plater. These with the full length of Frederick, the sixth and last Lord Baltimore, and a recent gift of a portrait of Governor Robert Wright, and one of John Eager Howard, are the only portraits of her Governors owned by the State.

In the Senate Chamber is a large picture by Edwin White, representing "Washington's Resignation of his Commission," obtained under an order of the Maryland Legislature in 1859.

The basement of the State House is occupied by the furnace for heating the building, the steam ventilator, and committee rooms.

An Annex to the State Library was ordered by the Legislature of 1886, a building long needed by reason of the over-crowded condition of the library.
